REMARKS

The office action and the references cited therein have been carefully considered and amendments have been made to the claims to emphasize pre-existing differences between the prior art cited and applied and to more clearly describe the invention as claimed.

The examiner has maintained the rejection of claims 1-4, 8-12, 14-17, 19-20 and 24-25 under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Li et al. (hereinafter "Li").

Applicant has again amended the independent claims 1, 9, 24 and 25 to further emphasize the differences between these claims and Li. As a result of these amendments, it is believed that these amended claims are neither anticipated, taught nor suggested by Li, applied singularly or in combination with any of the other patents of record.

The manner in which the Li configuration system works is clearly stated in the patent. The abstract indicates that an unconfigured internet access device is shipped directly to a customer without having to be manually configured. The customer enters a registration identification number and a telephone number into the internet access device. The internet access device then automatically connects to the internet, downloads configuration data from a configuration server containing customer site specific configuration data and then automatically configures itself for communication with the internet.

This is also consistent with language identified by the examiner at column 12, lines 43-48: "Once connected to an ISP, the internet access device is then able to automatically locate a configuration server, request the unique configuration record for that internet access device, download that configuration record and then automatically configure itself for communication with the internet using the configuration record."

The configuration record supplies the information that an Internet access device uses to automatically configure itself. (col. 14, lines 30-32; col. 16, lines 30-32). Importantly, the configuration record contains *all* of the information that is used

7

for the "automatic configuration" as is established by the text at column 14, lines 50-65:

> FIG. 12 describes in more detail the configuration step 726 of FIG. 11B. Before FIG. 12 is described in detail, the types of information that may be present in the configuration record are first described. The Internet access device is able to automatically configure itself for communication with the Internet using information contained in the configuration record. The configuration record contains information such as the customer domain name, the customer LAN network IP address, *the Internet access device IP address,* the DHCP range, time zone and NTP servers for time configuration, IP addresses for forwarding name servers, PPP account log in and password information, web mirroring configuration information, and mail configuration information. Other information may be added to the configuration record such as IP multicast router information, secondary DNS server information, etc. (emphasis added)

An important aspect of Li is the fact that there is a configuration server from which configuration data is downloaded to a device. It is a single server that provides such configuration data. The "automatic configuration" that is carried out in Li is merely the loading or installing of the downloaded information that is supplied by the configuration server. Li does not anticipate, teach or suggest amended claim 1, because Li does not have "a plurality of unconfigured devices which are connected to the network...", "a plurality of configured devices which are connected to the network, ... wherein one or more of the configured devices sends over the network at least a portion of its configuration information, wherein a portion of said configuration information sent by said one or more configured devices is used by any one of said unconfigured devices to *create its own configuration information, including its own unique identification address.*"

An unconfigured device in Li *never creates* its own configuration information, including its own unique identification address. It gets its identification address from the configuration server as part of the configuration record.

8

Li simply does not operate in the manner as claimed and therefore does not anticipate, teach or suggest claim 1 None of the other references of record do so either, either singularly or in combination with Li. The argument that has been made with regard to claim 1 equally applies to the other independent claims 9, 24 and 25. It is therefore believed that these independent claims are in condition for allowance.
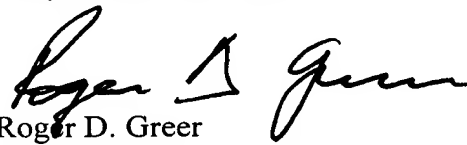
The differences between the prior art and the present invention are important. As stated in the summary of the invention at page 4, the present invention can have servers, hubs, routers, switches as well as other client computers send a portion of configuration information which minimizes the interaction by the user or system administrator and also the need for specialized software service for the configuration server. In the present invention, any one of many types of configured devices sends back information to the unconfigured device about the network environment. The unconfigured device uses this information about the network environment to create its own unique IP address.

Because the dependent claims necessarily include the features of the claims from which they depend and in addition define other features and functionality not found in those claims, it is also believed that these dependent claims are also in condition for allowance.

For the foregoing reasons, reconsideration and allowance of all claims pending in the application is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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9